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express to Congress their belief that the library interests of the country demand greater and less expensive facilities for the transportation of books, so that libraries may be able to extend their benefits to persons living away from the centers of population, and so that the small libraries may more freely borrow from the larger.

While a special library post would appear to them a most desirable measure, they believe that the proposed parcels post would materially improve the present conditions, and therefore they respectfully urge its establishment.

Mr. Wright desired the Council to appoint a committee to define the term "circulation of books" as used by libraries. On motion it was voted that this matter be referred to the committee on library administration.

On motion by Miss Robbins the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Council of the A. L. A. express to the directors of the Chicago public library, to the directors of the Art Institute, and to the members of the Chicago library club its appreciation and thanks for the hospitality and thoughtful courtesy extended to it during this meeting.

Council adjourned.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS OF THE MIDDLE WEST

The third annual meeting of the college and university librarians of the middle west was held in the Chicago public library, Friday afternoon and Saturday forenoon, January 5 and 6, 1912. The attendance, sixty at the first session and forty at the second, was larger than heretofore, partly because more institutions were represented and partly because of the presence of a larger number of other librarians who were in Chicago to attend the meetings of the week. Nineteen college and university libraries of this section of the country were represented by from one to six members of their respective staffs; and representatives from eastern libraries, Harvard, Columbia, Simmons, and Syracuse, from one southern library, the University of Georgia, from one

Canadian library, McGill University, and from the John Crerar library and the Library of Congress were all welcome visitors and participants in the discussions.

Dr. Walter Lichtenstein, who has recently returned from a six months expedition to European book centers in the interest of several American libraries, told his plan of work and some of his experiences in filling book orders entrusted to him. Mr. Lane, Dr. Andrews, and Mr. Hanson gave very favorable reports concerning his work for Harvard, Chicago University, and the John Crerar libraries. Mr. Newman Miller, of the University of Chicago Press, presented a statement concerning the work of the coöperative forwarding agent from European book centers. Weekly shipment of books has proven a very satisfactory, though a somewhat expensive, arrangement, and the suggestion was made that perhaps a bi-weekly shipment would reduce the cost and provide sufficiently frequent shipments to satisfy most needs. Mr. G. W. Sheldon, whose firm has acted as the shipping agent, was present and took part in the general discussion. Professor A. S. Root presented a statement of "some perplexities in the use of printed catalog cards," in which he called attention to some shortcomings of this service which everyone recognizes and which can hardly be remedied, and to other shortcomings or inconsistencies which might, perhaps, be eliminated. Dr. Andrews of the A. L. A. publishing board, Dr. Putnam of the Library of Congress, Mr. Hanson, of the University of Chicago, and others participated in the very active discussion which followed. Mr. H. O. Severance gave a description of a charging system which has recently been inaugurated at the University of Missouri library.

At the second session Mr. P. L. Windsor presented statistics tending to show the extent of the dependence of western libraries on the large eastern libraries in the matter of inter-library loans. The bulk of loans to institutions of the middle west appeared to come from Harvard, Library

of Congress, John Crerar library, and the University of Chicago library. Greater publicity in regard to the contents of our own libraries would probably decrease the number of requests sent to eastern libraries. Mr. Lane presented the proposition to make a charge for such loans, not for the use of the book but to pay for a part of the service involved in making the loan. Mr. Jacob Hodnefield presented a full account of his work with "exchange and gifts," in the University of Illinois library.

Mr. J. T. Gerould opened the discussion of "pensions for college librarians," and emphasized the desirability of an academic rank being accorded the principal members of our staffs. At the close of the general discussion of this question, a motion was passed that the committee in charge of the meeting be directed to take what action seemed possible, in order to lead to a more general granting of this academic rank.

The committee to make arrangements for next year's meeting consists of Mr. J. C. M. Hanson, Dr. A. S. Root, and Mr. J. T. Gerould.

P. L. WINDSOR.

CONFERENCE OF LIBRARY SCHOOL FACULTIES

Chicago, January 3, 1912.

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p. m., by Mr. Windsor. In the absence of Miss Whittlesey, Miss Bessie Sargeant Smith was made secretary. Twelve library schools were represented, and twenty-seven persons were present. A report was read on the use of lantern slides by library schools. This report was based on information obtained by Miss Whittlesey from letters sent out by her to library schools, libraries, and library commissions. A brief discussion followed in which the opinions expressed showed the value and use of such slides, and that it was a matter which should be developed further.

The subject of uniformity in the teaching of simplified catalog rules was next presented by Miss Rathbone, who said that uniformity in teaching forms of cards in simplified cataloging would aid in produc-

ing general uniformity in cataloging. Miss Rathbone suggested that if a set of rules should be formulated and printed they would no doubt be followed sufficiently by schools to result in fewer variations in forms taught than are now found. Each school has practices which it does not consider of vital importance. Others could be substituted to gain the advantage of sending out from all schools catalogers with uniformity in details of simplified cataloging who would tend to produce like methods in libraries. It is not intended to alter the A. L. A. rules, but to show how cards are to be made when brevity and simplicity are desired. The points are those of detail and of lesser importance, but those concerning which uniformity in a catalog is desired. The usages of the various library schools in the teaching of cataloging were then brought out. Wisconsin does not use the A. L. A. rules, but has its rules printed on galley, and distributed to each student; Illinois uses full A. L. A. rules and directs attention to desirable simplifications; New York has not yet found any definite simplified rules which it feels are infallible. A motion was passed that a committee be appointed to confer with Miss Hitchler regarding her forthcoming book on cataloging. The Chair appointed Miss Turvill, chairman of such committee, and Misses Gooch and Van Valkenburgh as members. Mr. Walter suggested that such rules be sent to the National Education Association as an exhibit.

Miss Hazeltine presented for discussion the subject of "Efficiency of administration in library schools," bringing out in detail the conditions in the schools regarding registration, number of instructors and lecturers, amount of revising of student work by instructors, amount of time allowed in instructors for study and preparation of lectures, number of class appointments per instructor, per week, length of instructors' vacation, etc.

The next subject of discussion was the "Cost of library schools" presented by Mr. Windsor, who had obtained data on this